#### GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICE TARIFF

First Revised Page 1
Cancels Original Page 1

(11)

EFFECTIVE: April 9, 1996

BELLSOUTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.
SOUTH CAROLINA
ISSUED: March 18, 1996
BY: President - South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina

## GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICE TARIFF FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

This Tariff contains regulations and rates applicable for the furnishing of Basic Local Exchange Service. Long Distance Message Telecommunications Service, Mobile Telephone Service, Wide Area Telecommunications Service and for other general subscriber services, equipment and facilities associated with the preceding services offered by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. within this State. This Tariff and a Map Supplement containing individual Exchange Service Area, Zone Rate Area and Base Rate Area Maps are on file with the South Carolina Public Service Commission.

Communication services described in this Tariff are furnished through facilities provided by the Company for the transmission of intelligence by electrical impulse, principally by means of wire, radio or a combination thereof.

#### **EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS**

When changes are made in any tariff page, a revised page will be issued cancelling the tariff page affected; such changes will be identified through the use of the following symbols:

<b>(B)</b>	To signify rates established under band	
(C)	To signify a changed regulation or tariff	
(D)	To signify discontinued rate, regulation or text	
(1)	To signify increase in rate	
(M)	To signify a move from one page to another with no change to text, regulation or teniff	
(N)	To signify new rate and/or new regulation, and/or new text	
(O)	To signify absoluted rate, regulation or text	
(R)	To signify reduction in rate	
<b>(S)</b>	To signify metter already appearing in another part of the tariff and repeated for charification	
<b>(T)</b>	To signify a change in text but no change in rate or regulation	
(U)	To signify USOC added or changed only	
(V)	To signify vintaged tariff	

The preceding symbols will apply except where additional symbols are identified at the bottom of an individual page.

Note 1: Wherever in this Tariff the name "Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company" or the term "Company" appears, that shall mean and shall refer to BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(N)

BELLSOUTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.
SOUTH CAROLINA

ISSUED: February 10, 1997 BY: President - South Carolina Columbia, South Carolina

#### GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICE TARIFF

Fourth Revised Page 1 Cancels Third Revised Page 1

EFFECTIVE: March 17, 1997

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Al.	DEFINITION OF TERMS	
A2.	GENERAL REGULATIONS	
A3.	BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE	
A4.	SERVICE CHARGES	
A5.	CHARGES APPLICABLE UNDER SPECIAL CONDITIONS	
A6.	DIRECTORY LISTINGS	
A7.	COIN TELEPHONE SERVICE	
A8.	TELEPHONE ANSWERING SERVICE PACILITIES	
A9.	FOREIGN EXCHANGE SERVICE AND FOREIGN CENTRAL OFFICE SERVICE	
A 10.	KEY AND PUSHBUTTON TELEPHONE SERVICE	
All.	PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGE SERVICE	
A12.	CENTRAL OFFICE NON-TRANSPORT SERVICE OFFERINGS	
Al3.	MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS	
A14.	AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT	
A15.	CONNECTIONS OF TERMINAL EQUIPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS	
A16.	RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE	
A17.	MOBILE TELEPHONE SERVICE	
A18.	LONG DISTANCE MESSAGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE	
A19.	WIDE AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE	
A20.	RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE	
A21.	resold foreign exchange service	
A22.	CUSTOMER PAYMENT PLANS	
A23.	Sharing and resale of exchange service	
A24.	EMERGENCY REPORTING SERVICES	æ
A25.	HORIZON® COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM	
A26.	RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE	
A27.	RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE	
A28.	PERSONAL SIGNALING SERVICE (BELLBOY)	
A29.	DATA TRANSPORT SERVICE	
A30.	EQUIPMENT FOR DISABLED CUSTOMERS	
A31.	MULTI-LOCATION BUSINESS SERVICE (MLBS)	ന
A32.	INTEGRATION PLUS' MANAGEMENT SERVICES (IPMS)	
A33.	RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE	
A34.	ADVANCED INTELLIGENT NETWORK (AIN) SERVICES	
A35.	INTERCONNECTION OF MOBILE SERVICES	m

GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICE TARIFF

Second Revised Page 1.1 Cancels Pirst Revised Page 1.1

EFFECTIVE: March 17, 1997

BELLSOUTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.
SOUTH CAROLINA
ISSUED: February 10, 1997
BY: President - South Carolina

Columbia, South Carolina

A36.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

A37.	BILLING AND COLLECTION SERVICES
A38.	LISTING SERVICES
A39.	RESERVED FOR FUTURE USB
A40.	FAST PACKET TRANSPORT SERVICES
A41.	RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE
A42.	INTEGRATED SERVICES DIGITAL NETWORK (ISDN)

RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

m

GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICE TARIFF

Forty Second Revised Page 1 Cancels Forty First Revised Page 1

EFFECTIVE: June 6, 1997

BELLSOUTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.
SOUTH CAROLINA
ISSUED: May 23, 1997
BY: President - South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina

# A5. CHARGES APPLICABLE UNDER SPECIAL CONDITIONS

#### CONTENTS

A5.1 C	Construction Charges	)
A5.1.1	Application	1
A5.1.2	General	1
A5.1.3	Construction on Public Highways or Other Easements	1
A5.1.4	Construction on Private Property	2
A5.1.5	Minimum Revenue Guarantee and Extended Service Period	3
A5.1.6	Underground Service Entrances	3
A5.1.7	Special Types of Construction	3
A5.1.8	Rearrangement of Existing Plant	3
A5.1.9	Construction Required for Temporary Service	4
AS.1,10	Reserved for Future Use	4 (
A.5.1.1	Special Construction Charges for Multiple Lines Terminated at Private Residence Locations	4 (
A5.2 (	Charges for Unusual Repair	4
A5.2.1	Buried Service Wire	4
A5.3 (	Charges for Unusual Installations	4
A5.3.1	Reserved for Future Usc	4
A5.3.2	Special Types of Installation	5
A5.3.3	Temporary Installation	5
A5.4 S	Special Service Arrangements	5
A5.4.1	General	5
A5.4.2	Rates and Charges	6
A5.5	Reserved for Future Use	15
A5.6 (	Contract Service Arrangements	15
A5.6.1	General	15
A5.6.2	Rates and Charges	15

#### OFFICIAL APPROVED VERMINH, RELEASED BY BETHO

#### GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICE TARIFF

Tenth Revised Page 15 Cancels Ninth Revised Page 15

EFFECTIVE: August 2, 1994

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY SOUTH CAROLINA ISSUED: July 5, 1994 BY: President - South Carolina Columbia, South Carolina

#### A5. CHARGES APPLICABLE UNDER SPECIAL CONDITIONS

#### A6.5 Reserved for Future Use

#### **A5.6 Contract Service Arrangements**

#### AS.6.1 General

- A. When economically practicable, customer specific contract service arrangements may be furnished in lieu of existing suriff affarings provided there is reasonable potential for uneconomic bypass of the Company's services. Uneconomic bypass occurs when an alternative service arrangement is utilized, in lieu of Company's services, at prices below the Company's rates but above the Company's incremental costs. Pursuant to Order No. 84-804, this Tariff will remain in effect unless otherwise modified or removed by authorization of the Public Service Commission.
- Rates, Charges, Terms and additional regulations, if applicable, for the contract service arrangements will be developed on an individual case basis, and will include all relevant costs, plus an appropriate level of contribution.
- C. Unless otherwise specified, the regulations for contract service arrangements are in addition to the applicable regulations and rates specified in other sections of this Tariff.

#### A5.6.2 Rates and Charges

- A. The following is a listing of rates and charges to subscribers requiring Contract Service Arrangements.
  - 1. Reserved for future Use

(C)

#### OPPICIAL APPROVED VERSION, RELEASED BY BETHO

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY SOUTH CAROLINA ISSUED: October 8, 1993 BY: President - South Carolina Columbia, South Carolina

#### GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICE TARIFF

Second Revised Page 5
Cancels First Revised Page 5

(C)

EFFECTIVE: November 15, 1993

#### A5. CHARGES APPLICABLE UNDER SPECIAL CONDITIONS

## A5.3 Charges for Unusual installations (Cont'd)

#### A5.3.2 Special Types of Installation

When a special type of installation is desired by a subscriber or where the individual requirements of a particular situation make the installation unusually expensive, the subscriber is required to bear the excess cost of such installation.

#### **A5.3.3 Temperary Installation**

When an installation is required for temporary service and there is no immediate prospect of reusing the plant provided, the subscriber may be required to bear all or a portion of the cost of such installation, over and above all other regular charges for service and equipment.

## **A5.4 Special Service Arrangements**

#### A5.4.1 General

- A. Where practicable, special equipment and arrangements, i not otherwise provided for in this tariff, are furnished if they are in accord with authorized service afferings and if they are to be used in connection with end not detrimental to any of the services furnished by the Company. Charges for such special service arrangements will be based on the estimated costs of furnishing them.
- B. Initial service periods exceeding one month may be necessary for facilities and equipment provided under a special service arrangement.
- C. The rates, charges and contract terms for the following items have been established as specified above to meet the particular requirements of certain subscribers. Inclusion of the rates and codes kerein in no way constitutes authorization for any subscriber other than those specified. Service charges apply to installation of SSA subsequent to the initial installation of seasociated equipment.
  - Note 1: In order to mest Open Network Architecture (ONA) requirements, the Company, upon customer request, will produce a special arrangement for WatchAlert® service and Performance and Fault Management Service based upon criteria in A.5.4.1.

Registered Service Mark of Bell South Corporation

18

BEFORE

#### THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

#### SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 84-379-C - ORDER NO. 84-804

October 5, 1984

IN RE: Application of Southern Bell Telephone and ) ORDER
Telegraph Company to Amend Certain Portions ) APPROVING
of its General Subscriber Services, Private ) TARIFF
Line Services and Access Services Tariffs )
So As to Allow Limited Contractual Services )

This matter comes before the South Carolina Public Service Commission by way of the Application of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company (the Company), filed on June 18, 1984, whereby the Company sought to amend certain portions of its General Subscriber, Private Line and Access Services Tariffs. These amendments would allow the Company to provide telecommunications services on a case-by-case basis in lieu of them existing tariff rates when the volume of service offered would permit contractual rates that would recover the costs of providing a competitive service and provide a contribution to the basic services.

The Application was filed pursuant to <u>S. C. Code Ann.</u> Section 58-9-520 (1976), as amended, and R.103-830, et seq. of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. Subsequent to the date of filing, Notice was given in the <u>State Register</u>, Vol. 8, Issue 7, dated July 27, 1984.

.

ľ

cate of South Carolina (the "Consumer Advocate") filed a Petition to Intervene and was granted status as an Intervenor by Order of the Commission dated August 21, 1984. By letter dated September 28, 1984, the Consumer Advaccate has advised the Commission that it does not feel that a hearing need be held on this cause provided the Company agrees to fully inform the parties hereto, on a case-by-case basis, when services are provided pursuant to these tariff revisions. Southern Bell has agreed to provide that information and to make available for inspection the cost studies and methodologies which support contract services proposals.

In determining whether or not a hearing is required in this matter, the Commission is mindful of <u>Code</u> Section 8-9-250 (1976) which states in pertinent part that "no telephone utility shall, as to rates or services, make or grant any unreasonable preference or advantage to any person." That nondiscrimination statute continues, however, and states that classifications of rates and services may take into account "the conditions and circumstances surrounding the services, such as the time when used, the purpose for which used, the demand upon plant facilities...or any other reasonable consideration."

It is apparent to the Commission that the present state of flux in the telephone industry as a result of the

break-up of the Bell System (see, United States of America v. Western Electric Co., et al, Civil Action No. 82-0192 (D. C. 1982) has required that we remain mindful of the objective of universal telephone service in South Carolina. As such, the public interest requires that regulation, while a necessary surrogate for competition, not be an impediment to a utility's ability to retain existing customers and/or attract new ones in competitive situations. Indeed, the Supreme Court of this State has similarly ruled in an analogous situation. Atlantic Coast Line Railroad v. South Carolina Public Service Commission, 144 S.E. 2d, 212, 219 (S.C. 1965). The Commission finds that the instant proposal is a proper interim response to growing competition in the telephone industry and should be authorized for a twelve-month period beginning with the date of this Order. By this Order neither the Commission, staff. nor any party waives any right to question the propriety of the Company's pricing methodology for basic exchange service or any other service. The Commission expressly reserves the right to reopen this matter and to issue an order amending or eliminating the authority sought by Southern Bell after hearing from all interested parties.

## IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That the proposed amendments to the tariff of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company filed in this matter are approved for a twelve-month period commencing on the date of this Order;

- That the hearing previously scheduled in this matter is hereby cancelled;
  - 3. That Order No. 84-787 issued in this Docket is hereby resciuded;
- 4. That Southern Bell file with this Commission and the Consumer Advocate quarterly reports showing the number and type of offerings provided under this "contract services" proposal as well as provide access to information sufficient to determine that such services are fully compensatory to the Company;
- 5. That this Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THIS COMMISSION:

Tice Chairman A Bowen

ATTEST:

destrocative nationing

(SEAL)

# Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Application of Ameritech Michigan	)	
Pursuant to Section 271 of the	)	CC Docket No. 97-137
Communications Act of 1934, as amended,	)	
To Provide In-Region InterLATA Services	)	
In Michigan	)	

## COMMENTS OF BELL ATLANTIC' ON PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION

The Commission should grant the petitions that ask it to reconsider its discussion of the script proposed by Ameritech for use on inbound calls. That portion of the Order, while dicta, directly conflicts with the 1996 Act, which expressly permits a Bell operating company and its interLATA affiliate to jointly market their services, is inconsistent with the Commission's own non-accounting safeguards rules, and, by the Commission's own analysis, would raise serious constitutional concerns to boot. Consequently, the Commission simply should withdraw this portion of its Order.

1. <u>Background</u>. In its application, Ameritech included a script for use on inbound calls that proposed to inform callers that they have a choice of long distance callers, and that Ameritech is one of the choices. It also offered to read a list of available carriers at the caller's

The Bell Atlantic telephone companies ("Bell Atlantic") are Bell Atlantic-Delaware, Inc.; Bell Atlantic-Maryland, Inc.; Bell Atlantic-New Jersey, Inc.; Bell Atlantic-Pennsylvania, Inc.; Bell Atlantic-Virginia, Inc.; Bell Atlantic-Washington, D.C., Inc.; Bell Atlantic-West Virginia, Inc.; New York Telephone Company; and New England Telephone and Telegraph Company.

option. In its order, however, the Commission concluded that the proposed script was flawed, and suggested that Ameritech instead should read a randomized list of all available long distance carriers.<sup>2</sup> While the discussion of this issue in the Order is non-binding dicta, the uncertainty it has engendered significantly impairs reasoned business planning efforts. As a result, this portion of the Commission's Order simply should be withdrawn.

2. The discussion of the script proposed by Ameritech is inconsistent with the Act. In section 272(g) of the 1996 Act, Congress expressly permitted a Bell operating company and its interLATA affiliate to jointly market and sell their local and long distance services, and made it clear that this joint marketing did not violate a Bell company's non-discrimination obligations under the Act. Prohibiting the use of scripts such as that proposed by Ameritech simply cannot be squared with this section of the Act.

The reason for this is straightforward. In most of the jurisdictions served by Bell Atlantic, there are well over 100 available carriers. For example, there are over 140 in the District of Columbia, and over 170 in New York. Merely reciting a random list of carriers would take a service representative eight minutes or more, and consumers simply cannot be expected to sit still for the inconvenience of having to listen to a list this long. Instead, they will interrupt with a selection (or simply terminate the call), if only to put a stop to the seemingly endless roll call of carriers. This not only would trigger a flood of complaints from frustrated consumers, but also, by effectively preventing a Bell company from jointly marketing its local and long distance services on inbound calls, would run afoul of section 272(g).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Application of Ameritech Michigan Pursuant to Section 271 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, To Provide In-Region, InterLATA Services In Michigan, CC Docket No. 97-137, Mem. Op. and Order (rel. Aug. 19, 1997) ("Ameritech Order").

In fact, the legislative history makes clear that Congress intended to permit a Bell company to "offer the same one-stop shopping alternatives that long distance companies can offer." See 141 Cong. Rec. E1913-02, E1913 (Oct. 11, 1995)(remarks of Rep. Mike Ward, Kentucky). But a long distance carrier offering local service would not have to subject its customers to a list of more than one hundred competing providers before even mentioning its own service. And Congress simply did not intend for a long distance incumbent to sell all their services to a customer on an inbound call, while denying that same opportunity to a Bell company. <sup>3</sup>

3. The discussion of the script proposed by Ameritech is inconsistent with the Commission's own rules. In its Safeguards Order implementing section 272, the Commission expressly held that "a BOC may market its affiliate's interLATA services to inbound callers, provided that the Bell company also informs such customers of their right to select the interLATA carrier of their choice." In addition, the Commission cited favorably an *ex parte* filing by NYNEX as an example of how this inbound joint marketing could be carried out – a procedure where NYNEX explicitly would inform customers "that a number of companies provide long distance service, including NYNEX Long Distance Company."

This conclusion is further buttressed by section 274 of the Act. That provision bars a Bell operating company, as a general matter, from engaging in joint marketing with its separate electronic publishing affiliate, section 274(c)(1), but expressly permits the Bell operating company to provide "inbound telemarketing or referral services," section 274(c)(2)(A). And if inbound services are permitted even where joint marketing is restricted, then they must certainly be permitted where it is **not**.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Implementation of the Non-Accounting Safeguards of Section 271 and 272, 11 FCC Rcd 21905, 22045-22047 (1996) ("Safeguards Order").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See Ex Parte letter from Susanne Guyer to William F. Caton, CC Docket No. 96-149, (filed Oct. 23, 1996), cited in Safeguards Order, n.764.

The script proposed by Ameritech fully complies both with the express terms of the Safeguards Order itself, and with the specific procedure that was cited favorably in that order. 

It first reminds customers that they have a choice of long distance carriers. It then informs customers that Ameritech is one of the choices, but immediately offers to read a list of other available carriers.

The Commission's only explanation for its about face here is that the Safeguards Order also requires a Bell company to "provide" a list of carriers in random order. Ameritech Order, ¶ 376. But the Ameritech script does explicitly offer to read such a list. *Id.*<sup>7</sup> And as the Commission itself recognizes elsewhere in the same order, to "make available," as Ameritech expressly proposes to do, is consistent with a "commonly understood" meaning of "provide." *Id.*, ¶ 110.

As a result, to the extent the Order here suggests that the list not only must be made available, but must actually be read -- apparently whether the customer wants to hear it or not -- it is simply inconsistent with the rules adopted in the Safeguards Order.

4. The discussion of the script proposed by Ameritech raises serious constitutional concerns. Under the Commission's own analysis, precluding a Bell operating company from

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Specifically the cited portion of the Ameritech script states: "You have a choice of companies, including Ameritech Long Distance, for long distance service. Would you like me to read from a list of other available long distance companies or do you know which company you would like?" Ameritech Order at ¶ 375.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The Order complains that the list was only available if the "customer affirmatively requests the names," *id.*, but in reality it is the script which "affirmatively" makes the list available to the customer, and merely leaves it to the customer to choose whether or not he or she wants to hear the list.

providing truthful information to its customers through a script such as that proposed by Ameritech also would create serious constitutional issues.

As the Commission itself has recognized, commercial speech of the type at issue here is afforded First Amendment protection so long as the speech concerns a lawful activity and is not misleading or fraudulent -- not an issue here. *Posadas de Puerto Rico Assoc. v. Tourism Co.*, 478 U.S. 328, 340 (1986). Such speech can only be restricted where there is a substantial government interest directly advanced by the restrictions and the restrictions are no more extensive than necessary to serve that interest. 478 U.S. at 340 (citing *Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp. v. Public Services Commission*, 447 U.S. 557, 566 (1980)).

The Commission itself recognized the problem when it interpreted the Act's explicit prohibition on the ability of large long distance carriers to joint market their long distance service with resold local services, and construed the prohibition narrowly to minimize the First Amendment concerns. Here, in contrast, the statute specifically permits a Bell operating company to market and sell its affiliate's long distance services, yet the Ameritech Order nowhere explains how preventing a Bell company from using a script such as that proposed by Ameritech satisfies the rigorous constitutional standard.

It does not because it cannot. Any conceivable concern is addressed by reminding callers that they have a choice of long distance carriers, and offering to provide a list of those carriers. In today's world of multi-million dollar long distance marketing campaigns, customers already are aware that they have choices for long distance service. Indeed, customers are least likely to be aware that the Bell company affiliate also offers such service. If a cone of silence is lowered over the Bell company, customers are less likely to understand their long distance options, and will be less able to benefit from the additional competition that Bell company entry into the long

distance market can provide. As a result, it actually harms the very governmental interest the Commission claims it is protecting.

## CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, the portion of the Commission's order discussing the script proposed by Ameritech for use on inbound calls should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

Of Counsel Edward D Young, III Michael E. Glover

Edward Shakin Leslie A. Vial

1320 N. Courthouse Road

8th Floor

Arlington, Virginia 22201

703-974-2819

Attorneys for the Bell Atlantic telephone companies

October 9, 1997

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1997 a copy of the foregoing "Comments of Bell Atlantic on Petitions for Reconsideration" was sent by first class mail, postage prepaid, to the parties on the attached list.

Tracey M. DeVaux

<sup>\*</sup> By hand delivery.

Walter Alford
William Barfield
N obert Sutherland
Boouth Corporation
1155 Peachtree Street, NE
Suite 1700
Atlanta, GA 30309-3610

Lawrence Malone
General Counsel
New York State
Department of Public Service
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Robert McKenna Laurie Bennett US West, Inc. Sr. 700 1 19th Street, NW Washington, DC 20036 Michael Kellogg Austin Schlick Jonathan Molot Kellogg, Huber, Hanson, Todd & Evans 1301 K Street, NW Suite 1000 West Washington, DC 20005

Counsel for BellSouth Corporation

William Lake John Harwood Jacquelynn Ruff Michael McKenzie Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering 2445 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20037-1420

Counsel for US West, Inc.

ITS, Inc.\*
1919 M Street, NW
Room 246
Washington, DC 20554



# DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

## The Race For Local Competition: A Long Distance Run, Not A Sprint

Address by

JOEL I. KLEIN
Assistant Attorney General
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice

Before the American Enterprise Institute

Washington, D.C. November 5, 1997 Thank you for inviting me here today to discuss whether the Telecommunications Act of 1996 is broken and, if so, how to fix it. The way in which this question is usually put suggests to me that many thought that the journey from local monopoly to competitive markets would be a quick and smooth one. The real truth, however, is that no one who fully understands the economics or technical aspects of this industry would have predicted that local telephone competition would blossom overnight -- or even fully mature within two years after the Act's passage. To be sure, in the wake of the Act's passage as well as during the maneuvering to get the legislation enacted, we did hear rosy predictions about cable telephony and successful forays by the long distance companies into local telephone service, but these predictions were clearly self-serving and overly-optimistic. Not surprisingly, such predictions led to unrealistic expectations and, consequently, disappointment by those who expected that consumers would see the benefits of competition soon after the Act's passage.

To understand why the Act sets the right course, we must first get beyond the unrealistic expectations about how competition would unfold. Then, we can examine what are the basic steps along the way from regulated monopoly to competitive markets. Finally, once we understand the nature of this market-opening process, we can assess where things are, what progress has been made, and what is likely to lie ahead. As the title of my talk indicates, I think it is pretty clear that the disappointments about the progress thus far do not reflect any inherent or unremediable flaws in the Act, but rather, the unrealistic expectations set during the Act's passage and, possibly, the understandable eagerness of our political system to cut short a deregulatory course that is designed for long distance runners, not sprinters. My own view is that the Telecom Act maps out a fundamentally sound approach and that we are making

progress, albeit less than we all would like, and that we should stick to this course so that we can all benefit from the changes that will continue to take place as we bring competition to the local telephone market.<sup>1</sup>

Now, in saying that the Act points in the right direction, I do not mean to say that it's just a question of time before we see full-scale competition. Implementing the Act is a difficult task, with lots of money and entrenched interests at stake, and it will require us to resolve some very tricky technological, technical -- and yes, unfortunately, even legal -- issues; moreover, realizing the Act's vision of a competitive marketplace will also necessitate that we make the difficult transition from a system containing implicit subsidies reserved for incumbents to one providing only explicit ones that are competitively neutral. Although this kind of terrain is difficult to traverse, I believe that we must go forward because the old system of regulated monopoly was worse and, in the long run, unsustainable. The alternative, in short, was to attempt to maintain our inefficient, bifurcated market for local and long distance services and its cross-subsidization of different services. The clear consensus of those who understand this industry, however, is that such a course would not only have undercut the movement towards the offering of one-stop shopping for telecommunications services, but that it would have involved the gradual "cherry picking," through bypass opportunities, of profitable local and exchange access customers,

As Larry Darby, former Chief Economist at the FCC, put it, "The abrupt and substantial regulatory departures from the past that were required by the legislation can't be implemented overnight. Too much is at stake, and the stakeholders are too well schooled in their procedural rights. These things -- regulatory change and market adjustments -- take time." Larry Darby, "A Year and a Half Later: Is the Telecommunications Act Working?" *Telco Competition Reports*, (July 3, 1997).